Project Office to take up field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion scheme. The project *inter-alia* will have flood control benefits for the State of Bihar.

For dealing with the problem of in undation in the vicinity of India—Nepal border, a Standing Committee on In undation Problems between India and Nepal is also functioning since 1986. So far, twelve meetings have been held in which various issues have been sorted out.

The Government of India has also been providing financial assistance to the State Governments including Bihar to take up critical anti erosion and other flood management works. An amount of Rs. 44.85 crore was released to the Government of Bihar as central assistance under various centrally sponsored schemes during the 9th Plan and an amount of Rs. 21.87 crore was released during 2002-03.

Linking of Manas Sankop-Tista-Ganga River

†1018. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Environment and Forests has rejected the project of linking Manas Sankop-Tista-Ganga rivers due to environmental reasons;

(b) if so, the details of objections raised by that Ministry; and

(c) whether these objections apply to the projects of inter-linking of other rivers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forests has only listed out environmental concerns which need to be addressed in the project formulation exercise for interlinking of rivers. These concerns relate to submergence of forests, wildlife sanctuaries and cultivated areas, rehabilitation & resettlement, siltation, bio-diversity loss, impacts on river hydrology and eco system, aquatic aspect, salinity and water logging.ground water pollution, conjunctive use etc. Such issues are considered while planning the water resources project.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The concerns highlighted by Ministry of Environment and Forests are equally relevant to the inter-linking of rivers as to any other water resources project.

Water share due to Kerala

1019. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual water share due to Kerala from Parampikulam-Aliyar Agreement;

(b) whether Government are aware that only 0.7 tmc. of water is diverted from Cauvery against the 147 tmc. which is actually due to Kerala;

(c) whether Government are also aware that Kerala is not getting its water share from Tamil Nadu since May 15, which resulted in drought in the Palghat District; and

(d) whether Government would intervence and ask Tamil Nadu to allocate the due share to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As reported by the Government of Kerala, the actual water share due to Kerala as per Parambikulam-Aliyar Project agreement is as under:-

(1) From Chalakkudy basin, Kerala is entitled for a total quantity of 12.3 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water to be made available at Kerala Sholayar Power House.

(2) 7.25 TMC of water at Manacadavu weir near Kerala border exclusive of unutilizable flood water, for the agriculture purpose of Chitturpuzha valley, annually.

(3) The entire flow during 1st October to 31st January every year from Upper Nirar weir.

(4) From the Parambikulam group of dam, Kerala is entitled to a quantity of 2.5 TMC when the yield exceeds 16.5 TMC.